" That would have created a new situation. But to meet that situation, I would have had a shot in my locker which, perhaps, will surprise you when I mention it."

I was indeed curious. "What would have heen the effect," said Bismarck, " if under those circumstances I had appealed to the national feeling of the whole people by pro-claiming the constitution of the German Empire made at Frankfurt in 1848 and 1849?"

"I think it would have electrified the whole country and created a German nation/' I replied. " But would you really have adopted that great orphan left hy the revolution of 1848?''

"Why not!" said the Chancellor. "True, that constitu-tion contained some features very objectionahle to me. But after all it was not so very far from what I am aiming at now. But whether the old gentleman would have adopted it, is doubt-ful. Still, with Napoleon at the gates, he might have taken that jump too. But," he added, " we shall have that war with France anyhow."

I expressed my surprise at this prediction—a prediction all the more surprising to me as I again thought of the great statesman carrying on his shoulders such tremendous responsi-bilities, talking to an entire stranger,—and his tone grew quite serious, grave, almost solemn, when he said: "Do not believe that I love war. I have seen enough of war to abhor it pro-foundly. The terrible scenes I have witnessed, will never cease

to haunt my mind. I shall never consent to a war that is avoidable, much less seek it. But this war with France will surely come. It will be forced upon us by the French Emperor. I see that deadly."

Then he went on to explain how the situation of an "adventurer on a tteone," such as Louis Napoleon, was different